

Burrillville

Recreation Commission

RE: Minutes, December 13, 2004

Present: Cheri Hall, Director Joyce Wolfe

Alice Lavigne David Marcotte

Juliette Lopez Kurt Schatz

Guest: Bruce Pilling, Burrillville Little League

President

Absent: Al Low and Albert Musso

Meeting called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Kurt Schatz, Chairman, at the Burrillville Town Hall.

Minutes of November 8, 2004 Regular Meeting were accepted. Motion to accept was made by Alice Lavigne. Seconded by David Marcotte. Motion passed 4-0.

Old Business:

Spring Lake Beach

Three bids were received for the Spring Lake Beach campground

project with the most expensive being \$84,000 and the least expensive \$72,000. The bid specifications were for the entire project without utilizing in-kind services due to Department of Public Works having a busy schedule. All three companies had costs ranging from \$6,000 to \$9,000 for trash receptacles. Consequently, that line item was removed. Picnic tables ranged between \$6,000 and \$10,000 and were also removed. The site number was changed from 15 to 10 sites.

With these changes, Lucena Brothers bid was changed from \$72,000 to \$48,362 including a \$2,000 contingency. The \$2,000 remaining will be utilized for the purchase of wood for the picnic tables, which a local scout group will assist in making. Trash receptacles will be made from barrels donated from Metech, International and painted by the scouts. Kurt Schatz recommended the use of a dumpster to avoid wild animals dumping them over. The bid was awarded to Lucena Brothers by the Town Council on Wednesday, December 8, 2004. Lucena Brothers will do all site clearing, stump removal, placement of wood fiber, furnish and supply flowers, and barbeque pits.

Judy Lopez asked if the neighbors of the campground have been notified of the plans. The Director stated yes and details will be worked out in the future.

Skate Park

A couple of weeks ago a memo was sent to the Town Council

members from the Town Manager voicing his concerns regarding a paragraph in the grant agreement with the State of Rhode Island regarding the designation of the skate park being recreation use only.

Consequently, if the town wanted to utilize the area in the future where the skate park is going to be installed for something else, the town would have to agree to find another area the same size for the skate park. At the December 8, 2004 Town Council meeting the agreement with the State of Rhode Island was approved noting the proposed skate park area is already designated recreational.

Hauser Field Project

A letter from Mr. Simpson, an abutting property owner, was received by the Director regarding the location of the restrooms. The Director did meet with Mr. Simpson prior to construction and the restroom building was moved further back from the road in the playground area. Town Council person Nancy Binns spoke with Mr. Simpson and it was explained that plantings will be placed to help with the situation.

Victorian Holiday Celebration

The Director stated the event was very successful but the Parks and Recreation Department did not receive any recognition for their co-sponsorship of the event. The Parks and Recreation Department will go back to having the Santa on the Town Common event. It was

decided that the carriage should be booked for next year's event on the town common.

Santa Calling

Ten volunteers will be making the calls this year. Approximately 125 children will be called.

NYSCA

Dave Marcotte suggested scheduling a clinic either on January 3rd, 5th or 11th. The Director will contact Al Lowe regarding his availability.

BEC Update

The Director had submitted a request to the Town Council regarding a change to the BEC Bylaws reducing the number of voting members on the Board of Directors due to the change of the Town Charter. This changed was approved by the Town Council.

The Director also requested that the town recognize the three full-time employees of BEC as town employees versus a 501C3. BEC would reimburse the town for any expenses. The Town Manager

recommended that a workshop be held to discuss this issue but at the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday, December 8th Town Councilman William Andrews made the motion to go 501C3, which means the BEC program would run separate and apart from the town and was seconded by Councilman Ronald Faford. The motion passed. Councilwoman Jacqueline Zahn stated she was appalled by the decision. Councilwoman Peggy Dudley came to see the Director the next day to discuss the vote and Councilwoman Nancy Binns will bring it back up in January for review. BEC Board of Directors Chairperson Amy Ricci submitted a letter to the Providence Journal including the program background and other specifics.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator has been ordered with the Ocean State Power grant totaling \$1,750 for use at Spring Lake Beach and the Recreation Center.

Playground Safety Course

The Director attended the playground safety course offered in South Carolina in November, but wasn't able to take the exam due to an illness. The Director took the exam only in Florida.

New Business:

Senior/Teen Survey

Copies of the Senior/Teen Survey were distributed to the commission for their review. The Town Council voted at the December 8th meeting to form a subcommittee for a Senior Center. The Director questioned the Town Council whether the Recreation Commission should proceed with their investigation into a facility. The Director stated the town couldn't support a separate building for a senior center but could add onto the existing community recreation center to include both youth and senior programs.

The Trust Application

An application has been submitted to the Rhode Interlocal Trust Safety Enhancement Grant for safety equipment including seven two-way radios. This would allow for each building on the beach and personnel to communicate in case of emergency.

Champlin Letter

A letter from the Champlin Foundation was received denying the application for the request for new lights at Branch River Park

baseball field. The reason given was the inundation of municipal requests at this time. After the first of the year letters will be submitted to Narragansett Electric and Verizon. A possible tower could be erected and they would in turn provide the lights for the field and other possible compensation. If these avenues do not allow for funding of the \$85,000 needed, there is another State of Rhode Island small grant round within two years that could be pursued.

Safe Sitter

A flyer was distributed to the commission announcing the next Safe Sitter program being offered to kids aged 11-14.

Relay for Life

The Relay for Life event was approved on agenda of the December 8th Town Council Meeting. The event is scheduled for June 24th and 25th. The American Cancer Society will now submit their zoning application. The Building Inspector Joe Raymond stated that he will suggest a five year renewal. The event will be smaller this year since it is being considered a Burrillville event versus for the entire northern Rhode Island area. CVS will not be at the Burrillville Relay for Life event this year which will make for the loss of 14 teams.

National Recreation & Parks Association

A letter from the National Recreation and Parks Association New England Council announcing The Director's nomination for the Programming Award for New England. Only two other Rhode Island Directors have ever been nominated for this big award.

CIP

The Director reviewed the requested changes for capitol improvements for the department. Funding for the expansion of the Parks and Recreation offices has been again requested. The Director has asked for an accounting of the balances in the Recreation Center account that could be utilized to assist in the expansion. Also requested was a new vehicle in the amount of \$16,000 for the department since the used police vehicle is not going to last to much longer.

Parking Lot at Hauser Field

The issue of paving the parking area at Hauser Field has been brought up by one of the abutting property owners, Mr. Woods. This issue was discussed years ago when the project was first proposed. The Engineer has stated paving would present a major problem and would include a D.E.M. permit. The new surface material recently installed in both the parking area and the new fields is more hard packed and should overt this dust problem. The Town Department of Public Works Director stated he would investigate this issue and see

if another solution could be recommended instead of paving the parking area. The Town Manager still wanted this included as part of the Capital Improvement requests.

The Branch River Track resurfacing has been pushed up to next year when the State of Rhode Island small grant is offered again. This item needs to be addressed since the track is in need of rehabilitation.

The Spring Lake Beach Bike Path, field behind the Police Station, Teen/Senior Center and the Skate Park are all part of the proposed CIP requests. The winterization of the Spring Lake Champlin Hall is being proposed for next year which could be another State of Rhode Island small grant request. This could be utilized for meetings and rentals for additional revenues. The Lifeguard House at Spring Lake Beach is pushed ahead to 2009.

Cristafavo Property

Michael Weremay drew up plans that he thought might assist Mr. Cristafavo as he starts the planning process. The Director did explain to Mr. Cristafavo that his donation of the recreational facility and the new residential development being proposed have to be treated as totaling separate projects.

Monthly Calendar & Quarterly Winter Newsletter

The December monthly calendar and Quarterly Newsletter were distributed to the commission for the review of the department's program offerings.

Commission Stipend

The revised stipend amount and procedure for handling stipends for the town committees and commissions effective July 1, 2004 states that the stipend of \$50 per meeting will only given to those who attend the meeting. If you are late or leave early from the meeting the stipend will not be given. The Parks and Recreation Department was never notified of these changes until recently. Consequently, these changes will take effect as of January 1st for the Recreation Commission.

Totem Pole

Judy Lopez asked the status of the Totem pole to be donated to the Spring Lake Beach Facility. The Director stated she was notified that it is near completion and will be installed in the spring at Spring Lake Beach Facility.

Goals and Objectives Meeting

The Director will be attending the Goals and Objectives meeting

scheduled for Wednesday, December 15th to review the department's plans. The plan for the land at Spring Lake Beach has been completed for the new campground area. The outdoor skating facility will hopefully be completed with the assistance through of the Cristafavo Recreational Facility project. Hauser Field project is near completion with new fields proposed next to the Burrillville High School and behind the Police Station. The skateboard park is near completion and ongoing is the plan for the Senior/Teen center. The recreation area at Mowry Road is also included as part of the road realignment. The multi-town bike path is also ongoing. Input for the consideration for an alternative use for the current library building once the new library is built was requested from the commission members. Dave Marcotte suggested it to be utilized as an extension of the library for story time since Pat Mehrtens stated that the Levy Foundation would take it over if it wasn't utilized as a library building.

The land next to recreation center was also to be considered for future recreational use.

The Director suggested for future agendas an area be included for Correspondence and Public Comment.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made by Judy Lopez. Seconded by Alice Lavigne.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The Workshop of the Subcommittee regarding League Budgets was

then held.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 10th, 6:30p.m., Town Council Chambers.

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